

NHSC UPDATE!



Uniting Communities in Need
and Clinicians Who Care

National Health Service Corps Moves to Parklawn

The central offices of the Division of National Health Service Corps have moved to the Parklawn Building. Our new address is 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8A-55, Rockville, MD 20857. Phone numbers remain the same.

FY 2003 Loan Repayment Program (LRP) Changes -

- **Earlier award dates for highest priority sites**—Eligible clinicians at sites with a high scoring HPSA will be funded on an ongoing cycle, as soon as their applications are deemed complete. *(Early awards are subject to funding availability and the site vacancy limits discussed below.)*
- Complete applications from clinicians at sites with a HPSA below the high scoring HPSA cutoff will be reviewed after March 28, 2003. Eligible applicants will be funded after that date by decreasing HPSA score only to the extent funding remains available and consistent with the site vacancy limits set forth below.
- The cutoff for identifying which HPSA scores will be used for purposes of ongoing funding will be determined soon after the funding level for FY 2003 is finalized. President Bush's 2003 budget proposal includes a 32% increase for the NHSC. If approved, this would mean expanded opportunities for sites and clinicians to participate in the NHSC LRP.
- Revised criteria for determining HPSAs of greatest shortage are under review and may be implemented in the near future. Overall, the changes will be relatively minor. However, in some cases the HPSA score may change significantly. The HPSA score in effect on the date the NHSC LRP application is received by the NHSC LRP will be the HPSA score used for the FY 2003 NHSC LRP award process.
- To be considered for the FY 2003 NHSC LRP, sites must have their vacancies approved on or before March 28, 2003. Sites in high scoring HPSAs should get their applications in as soon as possible. No awards will be made to clinicians at sites that are not approved by the NHSC.
- **Site Vacancy Limits** – NHSC LRP awards per site will be limited based on the following discipline categories:
 - Primary care – includes primary care physicians (MDs and DOs), primary care nurse practitioners (NPs), physician assistants (PAs) and certified nurse midwives (CNMs)

- Oral health – includes dentists (DDs) and dental hygienists (DHs)
- Mental and behavioral health care – includes MD and DO psychiatrists, clinical or counseling psychologists (CPs), clinical social workers (SWs), licensed professional counselors (LPs), marriage and family therapists (MFTs), and psychiatric nurse specialists (PNSs)

The site must identify the clinicians to whom it wants the NHSC to offer NHSC LRP awards if the number of eligible clinicians exceeds the site vacancy limits.

Phase 1: During the early funding period (through March 28, 2003), high scoring HPSA sites will be limited to 2 new NHSC LRP awards per discipline category as follows:

- Primary care: no more than 1 MD or DO **and** 1 NP or PA or CNM
- Oral health: no more than 1 DD **and** 1 DH
- Mental and behavioral health care: no more than 1 MD or DO Psychiatrist **and** 1 CP or SW or LPC or MFT or PNS

Phase 2: After the early funding period, sites below the high scoring HPSA cutoff will also be limited to 2 LRP awards per discipline category as indicated above.

Phase 3: If funding remains available, sites may be allowed a maximum of 4 new FY 2003 NHSC LRP awards for each discipline category as follows:

- Primary care: no more than 2 MDs or DOs **and** 2 NPs or PAs or CNMs
- Oral health: no more than 2 DDs **and** 2 DHs
- Mental and behavioral health care: no more than 2 MD or DO psychiatrists **and** 2 CPs or SWs or LPCs or MFTs or PNSs
- For FY 2003, subject to funding availability, the NHSC LRP will repay qualifying educational loans up to:
 - \$25,000 per year for years 1 and 2
 - \$35,000 per year for years 3 and 4
 - \$25,000 per year for year 5
 - \$20,000 per year for year 6
 - \$15,000 per year for years 7 and beyond

All participants are eligible for the 39% tax assistance payment.

As always, please let us hear from you. E-mail us your feedback at NHSCUpdate@hrsa.gov.